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On the Crocodilian genus **PEROSUCHUS**.

BY EDWARD D. COPE.

Characters.—Toes 5-4, with claws two—three. No osseous nasal septum or bony eyelid. Belly protected by series of osseous plates, as well as the back.

All the genera of Crocodiles hitherto known as living are characterized by the possession of three claws on the fore foot. The present therefore offers a remarkable exception. The free fingers and half webbed toes, and the bony abdominal buckler, together with the cartilaginous nasal septum are points of strong resemblance to *Jacare* (Gray, including *Cæman* Gray), but it differs from these creatures in the lack of bony orbital plate. In specific characters it differs from those of this genus, which it most resembles, as *J. nigræ*, in the absence of a transverse bony ridge between the orbits. Another feature of importance is the relation of the canine teeth of the lower jaw to the upper. On one side this tooth is received into a notch, as in Crocodiles, on the others it enters a pit of the maxillary bone, within the border of the same, as in Alligators! This remarkable combination may be abnormal even in this species, but this cannot be now ascertained, as it rests at the present time on a single specimen only. As its affinities are rather more alligatorial, I am disposed to anticipate that the dental arrangement of the latter type will be most common.

PEROSUCHUS FUSCUS Cope.

Char. specificus.—Nuchal plates in a cross row of six; cervicals in four cross-rows, all of four plates except the last of two. Dorsal plates six—in a few eight in each transverse row. No posterior crest on arm or leg. Tail short with remarkably low crest. Muzzle broad, flat, without any ridges; its width at the eighth tooth entering 1.4 in length from end of muzzle to anterior margin of orbit.

Description.—The specimen in the Museum of the Academy is young, measuring only 2 feet 5 inches in length. Of this the skull measures to the margin of the supra-occipital 2 in. 10.5 lin.; and the tail from the vent 13 in. 1 line. From groin to heel 3 in. 2.5 lines, and the hind foot 2 in. 7.5 lines. The muzzle is a broad ovate, the sides rather more convergent anteriorly than in the Alligator *mississippiensis*. There is a thickening in front of each orbit, and between them on the middle line another, which together enclose two shallow concavities. Superciliary margins raised, the cranial table quite flat. The margin of the quadrato-jugal bone projects strongly. The scales of the limbs are all smooth and those of the dorsal region with very low keels. The sides have four longitudinal rows of ovate scales separated by scarcely defined smaller ones. The abdominal plates are longer than broad, and are in twelve longitudinal rows. Dorsals in seventeen transverse series from interscapular to crural region. The lateral crests of the tail are only obtuse keels; they unite on the thirteenth annulus behind the vent inclusive. Color above dark brown, almost black on the upper surface of the head. The tail is paler, of a light olive brown. Lower surface everywhere bright yellow, including the entire lower jaw and margin of the upper. Eyelids and a band through ear yellow, the former with a black spot above.

Remarks.—This interesting addition to our knowledge of the Reptilia was made by Schulte Buckow, of New York, while on a visit to the interior part of the course of the Magdalena River, in New Grenada. This naturalist has also enriched our collections with other interesting vertebrata of that region, both living and dead.

1868.]